[*Translation*]

Iron Ore Dust in Baster District

3171. SHRI YOGANAND SARASWATI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that thousand tonnes of iron ore dust is lying on the ground in Baster district after the despatch of iron ore, which pollutes the drinking water resources;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up a plant in order to utilise the same; and

(c) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEB): (a) Fines are generated during the mining of iron ore and are being stockpiled at suitable places near the mine site. To avoid pollution of drinking water sources, tailing dams have been constructed by NMDC. Further, as the market for fine ore, both domestic and international, has developed, the stockpiled iorn ore fines at Bailadila are being reclaimed and utilised.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Direct Dialling System between Delhi and Ballabgarh

3172. SHRI AVATAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to withdraw the direct dialling facility between Delhi and Ballabgarh and propose to introduce S.T.D. facility there; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). The Government fully appreciates the necessity to provide an efficient telecom network to link up large cities with peripherial areas to help decongestion of the cities. With a view to achieve this, it is proposed to provide direct dialling between such locations with a special tariff. Such a proposal is under consideration for Delhi–Ballabgarh calls also.

[*English*]

Transmission from PIJ Station, Gujarat

3173. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the transmission from PIJ AIR Station in Gujarat has been stopped for the last three months;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) by when it is likely to be restarted?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b). All India Radio does not have a radio station in PIJ in Gujarat. However, the operation of the 1 KW TV transmitter at PIJ was stopped from November, 1991 since the area is well covered by the transmissions of Doordarshan Kendra, Ahmedabad and also because the continued operations of the PIJ transmitter were not cost effective.

(c) There is no proposal to restart the TV transmitter at PIJ.